AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 8, in the specification as follows:

— A particularly ~~desiderable~~ desirable additional characteristic of optical couplers is wavelength tunability, so that the dropped wavelength may be changed, in order to increase the flexibility of networks. The goal of a tuneable coupler is therefore to select one channel (or several channels) in a given incoming input optical signal and transmitting all other channels through the filter, said channel being changeable. —

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 19, in the specification as follows:

— Silica on its own may be thermo-optically tuned. However its thermo-optic coefficient dn/dT is of the order of 10^{-5}/ºC and a change of temperature of 100 ºC will typically shift the filter wavelength by less than 1 nm. This may restrict the applications where the ~~desiderable~~ desirable tuning range is of several nm. —

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 14, in the specification as follows:

— *Example 5*

A coupler designed to work in the erbium C-band (λ_{min} = 1530 nm, λ_{max} = 1565 nm) is considered. The two waveguides are vertically stacked and have a square core. In particular the input lower waveguide 1 has core dimensions 4 μm x 4 μm (SiO_2 doped with Ge) and effective index n_{1c}=1. 447, while the output waveguide has core

dimensions 1 μm x 1 μm (SiO_xN_y) and effective index n_{2c}=1.517. The tuneable cladding is DeSolite™ 3471-1-129 and the other cladding is undoped SiO_2. A 1 cm-long grating is placed on the output waveguide. This coupler satisfies eq. (V) for the C-band and indeed the simulation plotted in fig. 10 shows a dropped channel at 1.556 μm. ~~nm.~~ A second spurious channel reflected back into the input waveguide is present at 1.516 μm ~~nm~~ and it is well outside the desired bandwidth. —